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DDI-2082-74

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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SP - 89/74
8 July 1974
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Transmittal of GMAIC Study on "Prospects for Determining
the Accuracy of Soviet Strategic Ballistic Missiles"

1. The attached study is the first-completed of the several major research jobs commissioned by NIO/SP early this year in our program to zero in on major intelligence issues relevant to policy, to support the KIQ process, and to prepare for the annual estimate on Soviet strategic capabilities. I believe Evans Hineman and the GMAIC panel, chaired by [REDACTED] DIA, have performed an excellent and timely service with this paper.

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2. I commend to your attention the Summary and Conclusions (pp. 1-2), the Recommendations (p. 3), and the sections called Prospects for Accuracy Determination (pp. 29-32) and Implications for Soviet Hard Target Capabilities (pp. 32-35).

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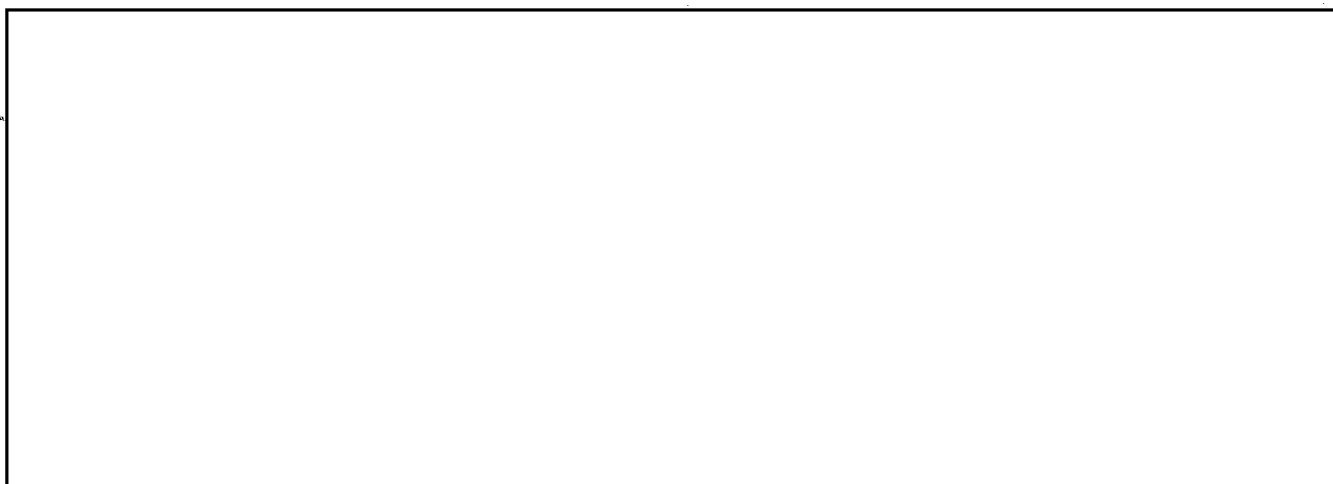
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5. As we attempt to narrow our uncertainties, we are fortunate to have available to us the time it will take the Soviets to deploy their new ICBMs and to achieve high operational accuracies with them. We must use this time to maximize the effectiveness of collection and analysis directed at a large number of ICBM system parameters affecting accuracy, with special concentration on the quality and performance of guidance and control mechanisms.

6. I recommend:

a. that you invite the chairman of GMAIC to brief the USIB on the findings and recommendations of this study at an early date;

b. that you invite USIB to approve GMAIC's recommendations;

c. that USIB communicate the approved recommendations to the major collection and analytical components as a call to action;

d. that USIB request a progress report from GMAIC annually henceforth.

7. I do not recommend that this report as such be transmitted to the President or Dr. Kissinger. The implications of its findings will be integrated into NIE 11-3/8-74 for use by such recipients. I am sending it to the NSC Staff, PFIAB, and others. The DIA member of GMAIC is sending it to Dr. Schlesinger, the JCS, and their staffs.

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8. As a concluding comment, I should note for your information that I believe the GMAIC study is somewhat weak in the area of the Soviets' perception of their own ICBM accuracies. While I do not doubt that the owner of a system will be able to make a higher confidence estimate about it than an observer who lacks all the facts, I am still inclined to share Dr. Schlesinger's view that "No nation will ever know prospective accuracy under operating conditions against a real-world target system."

9. The foregoing comment does not alter my belief that this is an important and useful paper.

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Howard Stoertz, Jr.
National Intelligence Officer
for Strategic Programs

Attachment:

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